

# NAAT'ÁJÍ NAHAT'Á HANE' LEGISLATIVE BRANCH NEWS

23<sup>RD</sup> NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL  
WINTER COUNCIL SESSION - JANUARY 2017



## Council supports funding for pilot project to construct 10 homes in the Former Bennett Freeze Area

By Jolene Holgate

On January 25, during the third day of the 2017 Winter Council Session, the Navajo Nation Council approved Legislation No. 0001-17, which would provide approximately \$255,000 from the Unreserved, Undesignated Fund Balance to carry out a pilot project to construct 10 homes in the Former Bennett Freeze Area, if signed into law by President Russell Begaye.

Legislation sponsor Council Delegate Tuchoney Slim, Jr. (Bodaway/Gap, Coppermine, K'ai'biit'ó, LeCh-ee, Tonalea/Red Lake), along with the Tonalea Commu-

nity Development Committee and representatives from the Tonalea Chapter, presented a proposal outlining a proposed project that would begin housing construction in the FBFA.

"We have spent a lot of time planning on how we can get our leaders to begin helping with the Former Bennett Freeze Area. It is our goal to bring our people back and change the life of the children in that area," said Delegate Slim. "For far too long our people have suffered in that area and they have been waiting



**PHOTO (above):** Members from the Tonalea Community Development Committee pose with Council Delegates Walter Phelps, Otto Tso, and Tuchoney Slim, Jr.

See "FBFA PILOT PROJECT", Page 2

## Council supports the increase of qualification standards for NHA Board of Commission members

By Jared Touchin

Prior to completing its agenda for the 2017 Winter Council Session on January 26, the Navajo Nation Council approved Legislation No. 0402-16, which seeks to amend Title 6 of the Navajo Nation Code to lower the number of Navajo Housing Authority Board of Commissioners from eight to five members, to change the qualification criteria for board members, and to

create and nomination committee to select potential board members.

President Russell Begaye will have 10 calendar days to consider the Council resolution once it is sent to the Office of the President and Vice President for consideration.

Council Delegate Alton Joe Shepherd (Jeddi-

to, Cornfields, Ganado, Kin Dah Lichíí, Steamboat) said he sponsored the legislation as a means to improve the management of NHA and to allow the enterprise to make progress by improving qualification criteria.

"Management is important for setting fundamental direction for NHA. By requiring members to have professional experience and backgrounds pro-

See "NHA BOARD", Page 2

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# FBFA Pilot Project / cont. from Page 1

patiently for the Navajo Nation to help them.”

Delegate Slim stressed that constructing the houses would encourage Navajo people to return home to their community and begin increasing economic development.

Cindy S. Covey, TCDC chair, said the community has worked for over a year on the proposal to provide new homes to FBFA residents who reside in unsafe, dilapidated homes, and urged Council to support the legislation because it would “return dignity back to the community members.”

“This project is so important to our Navajo people in the FBFA—it’s an emotional issue. I want the 23rd Navajo Nation Council to go down in history as the leaders that changed the lives for the people in this area,” said Covey.

In 1966, commissioner of the Bureau of Indian Affairs Robert Bennett ceased development of approximately 1.6 million acres of land that was in dispute by the Navajo Nation and Hopi Tribe, which prohibited Navajo families from making any improvements to their homes or to construct new homes in the area for nearly 50 years.

Congress passed the Navajo-Hopi Settlement Act and in 2009, and former U.S. President Barack

Obama officially lifted the freeze on development in the area, allowing for residents to begin constructing and rehabilitating homes and facilities.

The legislation initially sought \$543,000, however, Council Delegate Dwight Witherspoon (Black Mesa, Forest Lake, Hardrock, Pinon, Whippoorwill) informed Council that 65-percent of the project’s funding would come from the chapter and other outside sources, and that Council would only need to fund the difference.

He then proposed an amendment to reduce the amount from \$543,000 to \$255,000. Council members voted 15-3 to approve the amendment.

Council Delegate Tom Chee (Shiprock) commended the TCDC and chapter for developing a comprehensive proposal that illustrates that the community is eager to move forward with their own solutions.

“They took the initiative upon themselves and said ‘this is how it should be done.’ There is nothing like building your own home, creating your own cornfield, and nothing like educating yourself out of your own pocket. That is the best thing you can give to the next generation—to be a self-supporting individual,” said Delegate Chee.

Covey said one of the primary purposes is to

ensure that the homes being built are up to standard and are suitable for families. The proposal states that if the project proves successful, TCDC would seek to begin constructing nearly 450 additional homes throughout the FBFA.

Council Delegate Leonard Tsosie (Baca/Pre-witt, Casamero Lake, Counselor, Littlewater, Ojo Encino, Pueblo Pintado, Torreon, Whitehorse Lake) said he supported the housing initiative, but cautioned his Council colleagues in using the UUFB rather than holding the Navajo Housing Authority accountable for addressing housing needs.

“[The NHA], that is where the money is if you want to help this group of people. Yet we are getting the Navajo Nation in trouble and we’re leaving NHA alone. The answer is to take the [Tribally Designated Housing Entity] back from them, redo the Indian housing plan, and give them their full funding. That’s holding NHA accountable,” said Delegate Tsosie.

Council members voted 16-2 to approve Legislation No. 0001-17 with one amendment. President Russell Begaye will have 10 calendar days to consider the resolution once it is sent to the Office of the President and Vice President.

# NHA Board / cont. from Page 1

vides an avenue to bring home our young Navajo professionals to help NHA,” added Delegate Shepherd, who serves as the chair of the Resources and Development Committee that serves as the oversight authority for NHA.

The current criteria only requires the members to have some formal education or three years of leadership experience in a local unit of government, in addition to having the members reside in certain states and agencies. Residential requirements and agency representation would no longer be part of the criteria with the amended language.

The amended language calls for one member of the board to be a Certified Public Accountant, Char-

tered Financial Analyst, or accountant; one member to be a Registered Architect or licensed Professional Engineer; one member to have construction management or engineering or business management or Indian housing or federal housing field experience.

The resolution also restricts all Council members and former NHA employees, who worked for NHA within the past three years, from serving as board members. Two members would represent the tenants and homebuyers participating in programs administered by NHA.

Additionally, all commissioners would be required to have post-high school education and employment experience in business operations, architec-

ture, construction management, finance, accounting, investing, or in other specialized areas of construction or business that correspond to the activities or anticipated activities of NHA.

If signed into law, the resolution would also create a nomination committee composed of the president, speaker, and a Resources and Development Committee designee, who would then be confirmed by the Naabik’iyáti’ Committee.

Council members voted 11-8 to approve the legislation. President Russell Begaye will have 10 calendar days to consider the Council resolution once it is sent to the Office of the President and Vice President for consideration.

# Navajo Nation Council votes to extend timeline for the Transportation Stimulus Plan referendum

By Jared Touchin

During the fourth and final day of the Winter Council Session on January 26, members of the Navajo Nation Council voted to approve Legislation No. 0005-17, which would amend the Transportation Stimulus

Plan referendum measure by extending the deadline to hold a special election to allow registered Navajo voters to decide whether or not to use approximately \$216 million from the Permanent Trust Fund principle

for road improvements throughout the Navajo Nation.

The Council approved the referendum measure on October 27, which became law after President Russell Begaye did not take action within the 10-calen-



# Commencement of the 2017 Winter Council Session celebrates the accomplishments of Navajo mechanical engineer and police officer

By Jolene Holgate

On the first day of the 2017 Winter Council Session, the 23<sup>rd</sup> Navajo Nation Council opened the session with the recognition of two Navajo individuals for their outstanding accomplishments that benefit the Navajo Nation.

Council Delegate Jonathan Hale (Oak Springs, St. Michaels) presented the first recognition award to Aaron Yazzie, a mechanical engineer with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

"Here is a young Navajo man who took his education seriously and made his goals a reality. He has a career in a very difficult field and works for one of the most renowned organizations in the world—NASA," said Delegate Hale. "This is the path we set for our young people and we are very proud of him as a Nation."

Yazzie graduated from Holbrook High School in 2004 and graduated from Stanford University in 2008 receiving his Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering. He was also a recipient of the 2008 Stanford School of Engineering Dean's Leadership Award.

"I am really happy to be here representing STEM education and higher education for the Navajo

people. It is very important to me. I have been helped a lot by the programs offered by the Navajo Nation and I was able to go on and get a career," said Yazzie. "I want to thank our leaders for all that they do here in supporting our youth and their education. I thank you for what you have done for me."

Yazzie's parents are Kee and Shirley Yazzie, and he was raised in Holbrook, Arizona. His maternal clan is Áshjìhí (Salt Clan), and born for Tódích'íí'níi (Bitter Water Clan). His maternal grandfather's clan is Kinyaa'áanii (Towering House) and his paternal grandfather's clan is Tó'áhání (Near The Water Clan).

Council Delegate Edmund Yazzie (Churchrock, Iyanbito, Mariano Lake, Pinedale, Smith Lake, Thoreau) presented the second recognition award to Navajo Nation Police Officer Eric Williams, who recently responded to a suicide call in the community of Oak Springs and was able to save the life of an individual who attempted to end their life.

"I want to recognize Officer Williams on behalf of the Law and Order Committee. Their job is very stressful and we do not take their service for granted," said Delegate Yazzie. "Officer Williams saved a life, and life is very precious. Because of Officer Williams's fast thinking, this individual is still with us," said Delegate Yazzie.

Officer Williams has been with the Navajo Nation Police Department for nearly 12 years and serves in the Window Rock Police District. He is originally from the community of Fort Defiance, Arizona.

He is a member of the Navajo Nation Police Department's Strategic Reaction Team, is a Field Training Officer, and a hostage negotiator with specialized tactical skills to aid in high-risk and high-stress level situations.

"The high level of skills that Officer Williams' possesses contributed to the positive outcome of the situation he was faced with, and we as Nation should never take our law enforcement for granted. We are beyond thankful for their service," said Delegate Yazzie.

In addition to the recognitions, various youth



**PHOTO (above):** On Jan. 23, Council Delegate Edmund Yazzie presented a recognition award to Officer Eric Williams for his part in saving the life of an individual who attempted to commit suicide.

and students participated in the opening day activities. The Chinle High School Army Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) posted colors, while Miss Navajo Nation Ronda Joe performed the National Anthem in the Navajo language.

Fort Defiance Head Start students provided the Pledge of Allegiance, and performed a variety of Navajo songs. Rita Gilmore, a traditional Navajo practitioner from the Navajo Department of Behavioral Health Services provided the opening day prayer.

**PHOTO (below):** Visiting royalty joined Council on the opening day for the Winter Council Session. From left to right: Miss Indian Arizona Shaandiin Parrish, Miss Navajo Nation Ronda Joe, and Miss Western Navajo Nation Jackie Johnson.



**PHOTO (above):** On opening day of the Winter Council Session, Aaron Yazzie received a recognition award from the 23<sup>rd</sup> Navajo Nation Council for his research and contributions to the Navajo Nation and NASA. (L to R: Shirley Yazzie, Kee Yazzie, Aaron Yazzie, and Council Delegate Jonathan L. Hale.)

# Navajo Nation Council confirms the permanent appointment of Cynthia Thompson as District Court Judge

By Jared Touchin

On January 26, with a vote of 15-1, the Navajo Nation Council confirmed the permanent appointment of Cynthia Thompson, who is originally from the community of Del Muerto located near Chinle, to serve as a

Navajo Nation District Court Judge.

Council Delegate Kee Allen Begay, Jr. (Low Mountain, Many Farms, Nazlini, Tachee/Blue Gap, Tselani/Cottonwood) sponsored Legislation No. 0006-17,

which sought the permanent appointment based on a recommendation issued by the Law and Order Committee through a resolution passed in September 2015.

Delegate Begay stated that the Law and Order

See "DISTRICT COURT JUDGE", Page 5

# Navajo Nation Council approves \$242,000 for chapters to provide emergency response services

By Crystalyne Curley

On the third day of the 2017 Winter Council Session on January 25, the Navajo Nation Council approved Legislation No. 0038-17, an emergency bill to provide approximately \$242,000 in supplemental funding from the Minimum Fund Balance for 33 Navajo chapters for emergency response services due to recent heavy snow. The resolution will be sent to the Office of the President and Vice President for consideration.

Council Delegate Seth Damon (Bááháálí, Chichiltah, Manuelito, Tsé Lichíí, Rock Springs, Tsayatoh) introduced the emergency legislation on Wednesday, after Council Delegate Benjamin L. Bennett (Crystal, Fort Defiance, Red Lake, Sawmill) reported to the Council that the Commission on Emergency Management had approved a resolution to declare a state of emergency due to recent winter storms. Delegate Bennett serves as a voting member on the commission.

“Currently, there are 33 chapters that have less than \$10,000 for emergency services. The funding will allow the 33 chapters to help their community members. I ask that we move on this quickly,” stated Delegate Damon, who also urged President Russell Begaye to approve the resolution as quickly as possible in order to get the funding to the chapters as soon as possible.

According to the Navajo Nation Office of the Auditor General, as of Sept. 2016, the Nation’s 110 chapters had a total of \$3.4 million in emergency funds, however the 33 chapters each had less than \$10,000

with many having a zero balance.

The emergency declaration directs responsible Navajo Nation entities to immediately begin coordinating resources to meet the needs of all communities and activate emergency funds for personnel and equipment to restore and main infrastructure.

The Council also approved an amendment proposed by Council Delegate Leonard Tsosie (Baca/Prewitt, Casamero Lake, Counselor, Littlewater, Ojo Encino, Pueblo Pintado, Torreon, Whitehorse Lake) that would restrict chapters from utilizing the funds for any other purposes besides emergency response services.

“The money should be only be used for emergency services and relief. We can’t allow chapters to begin transferring the funds to travel, pay utilities, or other non-emergency expenses. We need to keep the chapters accountable,” stated Delegate Tsosie.

Council Delegate Walter Phelps (Cameron, Coalmine Canyon, Leupp, Tolani Lake, Tsidi To ii) urged his Council colleagues to support the legislation to help chapters and reminded them that the funds may possibly be reimbursed to the Navajo Nation through a process under the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

According to the Navajo Nation Department of Emergency Management executive director Harlan Cleveland, chapters may receive reimbursements through FEMA if emergency funds are used in accordance with the guidelines and policies of FEMA.

NAVAJO NATION CHAPTERS EMERGENCY FUNDS REQUEST:			
Chapter:	Business Unit:	Current Balance:	Need:
Nenahnezad	108094	\$ 9,530.46	\$ 469.54
Standing Rock	108053	\$ 9,394.47	\$ 605.53
Rock Point	108098	\$ 8,577.00	\$ 1,423.00
Kaibeto	108114	\$ 7,839.82	\$ 2,160.18
Pinedale	108047	\$ 7,492.93	\$ 2,507.07
Casamero Lake	108033	\$ 6,058.94	\$ 3,941.06
Tolani Lake	108122	\$ 5,521.43	\$ 4,478.57
Pinon	108021	\$ 3,938.07	\$ 6,061.93
Tohatchi	108081	\$ 3,656.30	\$ 6,343.70
Mariano Lake	108043	\$ 3,587.78	\$ 6,412.22
Cove	108089	\$ 3,005.53	\$ 6,994.47
Klagetoh	108069	\$ 2,672.88	\$ 7,327.12
Burnham	108088	\$ 2,525.02	\$ 7,474.98
Teesto	108080	\$ 2,386.29	\$ 7,613.71
Red Mesa	108096	\$ 1,984.86	\$ 8,015.14
Tohajilee	108032	\$ 1,843.83	\$ 8,156.17
Whitecone	108083	\$ 1,413.92	\$ 8,586.08
Tachee/Blue Gap	108024	\$ 1,338.90	\$ 8,661.10
Manuelito	108042	\$ 1,242.46	\$ 8,757.54
Naschitti	108074	\$ 1,166.89	\$ 8,833.11
Baca/Prewitt	108029	\$ 1,073.00	\$ 8,927.00
Mexican Springs	108073	\$ 446.37	\$ 9,553.63
Pueblo Pintado	108048	\$ 332.24	\$ 9,667.76
Sheep Springs	108101	\$ 285.25	\$ 9,714.75
Hogback	108092	\$ 88.57	\$ 9,911.43
Whitehorse Lake	108057	\$ 20.70	\$ 9,979.30
Nahata Dziil	108085	\$ 0.01	\$ 9,999.99
Birdsprings	108106	\$ -	\$ 10,000.00
Tuba City	108123	\$ -	\$ 10,000.00
Crystal	108061	\$ -	\$ 10,000.00
Churchrock	108035	\$ -	\$ 10,000.00
Mexican Water	108093	\$ -	\$ 10,000.00
Dilkon	108062	\$ -	\$ 10,000.00
TOTAL		\$	242,576.08

PHOTO (above): The list of 33 chapters that would receive funding if signed into law by President Russell Begaye.

On Jan. 25, the Navajo Nation Division of Community Development reported that a total of nine chapters declared a state of emergency.

Council members voted 18-3 to pass Legislation No. 0038-17 with one amendment, which required two-thirds of Council’s approval. The Council resolution was delivered to the Office of the President and Vice President on Jan. 26. President Begaye has until February 2 to consider the resolution.

## Transportation Stimulus Plan / cont. from Page 2

dar day timeframe, in accordance with Navajo Nation law.

During the discussion, legislation sponsor Council Delegate Lee Jack, Sr. (Dilkon, Greasewood Springs, Indian Wells, Teesto, Whitecone) explained that the extension is necessary to allow additional time to secure funding for the Navajo Election Administration to hold the special election.

In September, the Council approved funding to hold the referendum, which was included in the Comprehensive Budget, and again in November when the Council amended the Comprehensive Budget – on both occasions, President Begaye used the presidential line item authority to deny the funds.

Council Delegate Walter Phelps (Cameron, Coalmine Canyon, Leupp, Tolani Lake, Tsidi To ii), who sponsored the referendum legislation in October, urged the Council to approve the extension to provide

a “legislative fix” in regards to the mandated timeline associated with all referendum measures.

The Navajo Election Code requires referendums to be held no sooner than 60 days and no later than 90 days following the passage of the resolution referring the enactment. The new language approved by the Council would postpone the referendum election until funds for the election are secured. If funds are secured, the election would be held no sooner than 60 days and no later than 90 days of the approval of funds.

Navajo Nation law would require two-thirds approval of voters who cast a ballot in the proposed referendum, in order to utilize the funds from the Permanent Trust Fund. The Transportation Stimulus Plan would provide 20-miles of non-paved road improvements in each of the 24 legislative districts, if approved by voters.

The Council voted 13-3 on Thursday to ap-

proved Legislation No. 0005-17, which will be sent to the Office of the President and Vice President for consideration.

The Council also considered a separate legislation that seeks to secure funding from the Navajo Nation’s Unreserved, Undesignated Fund Balance in the amount of \$248,000 for the Navajo Election Administration to conduct the referendum election.

Council Delegate Raymond Smith, Jr. (Houck, Klagetoh, Nahata Dziil, Tsé Si áni, Wide Ruins) raised questions and concerns over certain amounts contained in the budget forms attached to the legislation specifically pertaining to standard mileage rate that changed with the start of the new year, and requested that revised forms be included to reflect the new rate.

The Council voted 15-1 to table Legislation No. 0431-16 until the next session.



# LoRenzo Bates re-elected to serve second term as Speaker of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Navajo Nation Council

By Jared Touchin

As the first order of business during the opening day of the Winter Council Session, the 23<sup>rd</sup> Navajo Nation Council re-elected Speaker LoRenzo Bates (Nenahnezad, Newcomb, San Juan, Tiis Tsoh Sikaad, Tse'Daa'Kaan, Upper Fruitland) to serve a second two-year term as the Speaker.

"I am honored and thankful to my Council colleagues for their support and I look forward to serving the Council and all of our Diné Citizens for two more years in this capacity," said Speaker Bates, who took the oath of office administered by acting Chief Justice Allen Sloan.

The selection of the Speaker began with open nominations, which allowed an unlimited number of nominees to be considered for the position. The nominees included Council Delegate Otto Tso (Tó Nanees Dizi) and Speaker Bates.

Council Delegate Kee Allen Begay, Jr. (Low Mountain, Many Farms, Nazlini, Tachee/Blue Gap, Tselani/Cottonwood) was also nominated, however, he declined the nomination citing the need to continue focusing on serving as the chair of the Council's State Task Force, serving his five chapters, and the Law and Order Committee.

Delegate Tso and Speaker Bates were then provided 15 minutes each to present their platform to

the 24-member Council. Delegate Tso received (6) six supporting votes, while Speaker Bates received (16) sixteen supporting votes to secure his second term as Speaker of the Council.

Delegate Tso's platform centered on the need to uphold and promote traditional and cultural aspects of leadership and to work and communicate more closely with chapters and the five Navajo agencies across the Navajo Nation.

Speaker Bates presented a platform centered on the accomplishments of the current Council including the approval of the largest spending packages in the history of the Navajo government totaling over \$330 million for water infrastructure projects, economic development projects, community development, and agricultural projects.

He also emphasized the need for the Council to stay the course on its ongoing initiatives including the negotiation of an amended gaming compact with the state of Arizona, the settlement of water rights for the Little Colorado River, the ongoing implementation of water infrastructure projects, and several others.

Following the swearing-in, Speaker Bates said he is confident that the Council will move forward together with ongoing initiatives to help the Navajo Nation which includes our elders, youth, veterans, and



**PHOTO (above):** Speaker LoRenzo Bates is administered the oath of office by Acting Chief Justice Allen Sloan after being elected to serve a second two-year term as the Speaker of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Navajo Nation Council during the opening day of the Winter Council Session on Jan. 23, 2017 in Window Rock, Ariz.

many more.  
According to 2 N.N.C. §282, the Speaker of the Council shall serve a term of two-years "at the pleasure of the Navajo Nation Council."

## District Court Judge / cont. from Page 3

Committee has made the appointment of probationary and permanent judges a top priority in order to fill vacant positions that often hinder the progress and work of the Navajo Nation's 13 Judicial Districts.

Acting Chief Justice Allen Sloan, who joined Delegate Begay and Thompson as they presented the legislation before Council, also issued a favorable recommendation for the permanent appointment and asked for the Council's support. He also noted that the Navajo Nation has a total of 17 judge positions, however, only 11 are currently filled including Thompson's position.

Speaking in the Navajo language, Thompson said that she sees the position as a way of giving back to the Navajo people and helping communities. She added that her years of working as a probationary judge and working with schools and community members have provided her with an understanding of the struggles, obstacles, and issues that affect the Navajo people.

Thompson also stressed the importance of viewing issues from a traditional perspective while upholding the laws of the Navajo Nation.

In accordance with Title 7 of the Navajo Nation Code, Thompson was required to serve a two-year probationary period as a Navajo Nation judge. She has served with the Dilkon Judicial District since October 2014.

LOC chair Council Delegate Edmund Yazzie (Churchrock, Iyanbito, Mariano Lake, Pinedale, Smith Lake, Thoreau) and other LOC members joined Thompson as she was sworn-in by acting Chief Justice Sloan following the Council's approval of the legislation.

"On behalf of the Law and Order Committee, we congratulate Judge Thompson and her family and we look forward to continuing to help the



**PHOTO (above):** Members of the Law and Order Committee join Judge Cynthia Thompson as she is sworn-in by acting Chief Justice Allen Sloan during the 2017 Winter Council Session at the Department of Diné Education in Window Rock, Arizona on Jan. 26, 2017.

Judicial Branch to improve public safety and the Nation's judicial process," Delegate Yazzie stated.

# Legislation seeking to change the “Navajo Nation” to “Diné Nation” tabled pending further evaluation

By Crystalne Curley

On the last day of the 2017 Winter Council Session, the Council tabled Legislation No. 0395-16 until the Spring Council Session in April. The bill seeks to amend the Navajo Nation Code to change the name of the “Navajo Nation” to “Diné Nation.”

Following nearly two hours of discussion, legislation sponsor Council Delegate Jonathan Hale (Oak Springs, St. Michaels) agreed to the tabling motion to allow more time for the Navajo people to discuss and consider the name change.

“The intent of the legislation was to question how we identify ourselves. Then we question ourselves as Council Delegates, should this question be up to the Navajo people or the legislators? We also need to hear what our people think about this,” stated Delegate Hale.

Delegate Hale also pointed out that the legislation received no public comments during the five-day comment period.

Title II of the NNC provides a five-day comment period for the Navajo Nation Executive Branch, chapter governments, and the public to provide comments to legislations that will be considered by the Navajo Nation Council Standing Committees and Council.

“If we change the Nation’s name to ‘Diné Nation’, how much will it cost? Where will the money come from to make the change?” questioned Council Delegate Herman Daniels, Jr. (Shonto, Naa’tsis’Áán, Oljato,

Ts’ah Bii Kin), referring to changes that would have to be made to supplies, equipment, etc.

“Also, many of our local chapter governments have changed their names to Navajo translated names but majority of the public still use the old names. For example, Navajo Mountain Chapter changed their name to ‘Naa’tsis’Áán Chapter,’ but people still identify the chapter as Navajo Mountain. Our Navajo people are use to the name ‘Navajo,’” added Delegate Daniels.

In support of the legislation, Council Delegate Nathaniel Brown (Chilchinbeto, Dennehotso, Kayenta) stated that the name change would allow the people to properly identify themselves as “Diné.”

“It may be true that we are known as ‘Navajo’ to the world but how do we identify ourselves in prayers? We identify ourselves as ‘Diné’ in front of the Holy People. The word ‘Navajo’ is a generic term that was given to us by the federal government. We constantly tell our children to learn the language and culture and allowing the name change will be a first step to revitalizing our language,” stated Delegate Brown.

According to Delegate Brown, many people interpret the word, “Diné,” as “The People,” but some Council members were concerned that the word “Diné” may associate with different meanings and interpretations.

“For example, the word ‘Diné’ may translate

into ‘The People’ or refer to a male,” said Delegate Daniels.

After a lengthy debate among Council members, the Council approved a tabling motion by Council Delegate Kee Allen Begay, Jr. (Low Mountain, Many Farms, Nazlini, Tachee/Blue Gap, Tselani/Cottonwood) to allow more time for consideration.

“The legislation arises many questions. I believe that we need insight from the elders, chapters, and youth. We also need clear recommendations and explanation of the word ‘Diné,’” stated Delegate Begay.

The legislation states that if the change is approved it would go into effect in October 2017 to allow time to plan and implement the name change.

Public comments in reference to Legislation No. 0395-16 can be submitted as follows:

- Digital comments may be e-mailed to: [comments@navajo-nsn.gov](mailto:comments@navajo-nsn.gov)
- Written comments may be mailed to: Executive Director, Office of Legislative Services, P.O. Box 3390, Window Rock, AZ 86515
- Written comments may be faxed to: Fax #: (928) 871-7259

The Council approved to table the legislation until the Spring Council Session in April to hold a work session.

## The Council extends their appreciation to the Department of Diné Education for hosting the 2017 Winter Council Session

The 23<sup>rd</sup> Navajo Nation Council convened for Winter Council Session from Jan. 23 to 27 at the Department of Diné Education auditorium in Window Rock, due to the ongoing renovation of the Council Chamber.

The renovation of the Council Chamber began in December and is tentatively scheduled to conclude

in April.

“On behalf of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Navajo Nation Council, we extend our appreciation to the Department of Diné Education for their hospitality and thank all the people who attended the weeklong session,” stated Speaker LoRenzo Bates (Nenahnezad, Newcomb, San Juan, Tiis Tsoh Sikaad, Tse’Daa’Kaan, Upper Fruitland).





# 2017 Winter Council Session Picture Highlights



PHOTO (above): 2016-2017 Miss Navajo Ronda Joe sang the National Anthem in the Navajo language on the opening day of the Winter Council Session on Jan. 23, 2017 at the Department of Diné Education in Window Rock, Ariz.



PHOTO (above): Students from the Chinle Junior ROTC program posted the colors at the start of the Winter Council Session on Jan. 23, 2017 at the Department of Diné Education in Window Rock, Ariz.



PHOTO (above): Rita Gilmore, Traditional Practitioner with the Navajo Nation Department of Behavioral Health Services provided the invocation at the start of the Winter Council Session on Jan. 23, 2017 at the Department of Diné Education in Window Rock, Ariz.



PHOTO (above): Council Delegate Walter Phelps (right) and Council Delegate Davis Filfred (left) presented a resolution from the Hawaiian Home Commission in appreciation of the Navajo Nation Council, during the Winter Council Session on Jan. 26, 2017 at the Department of Diné Education in Window Rock, Ariz.



PHOTO (above): Council Delegate Jonathan Hale (right) sponsored Legislation No. 0024-17, which confirmed the appointment of Herbert Clah, Jr. (left) to the Navajo Nation Gaming Enterprise Board of Directors for a four-year term, during the Winter Council Session on Jan. 26, 2017 at the Department of Diné Education in Window Rock, Ariz.



PHOTO (above): Council Delegate Edmund Yazzie (middle) sponsored Legislation No. 0408-16, which confirmed Roderick T. Begay (right) as the Navajo Nation Deputy Attorney General during the Winter Council Session on Jan. 26, 2017 at the Department of Diné Education in Window Rock, Ariz.



# 23<sup>rd</sup> Navajo Nation Council Standing Committees, Subcommittees, Task Forces, and Commissions

## Council Standing Committees

Budget and Finance Committee	Health, Education, and Human Services Committee	Law and Order Committee	Resources and Development Committee
Seth Damon (Chair) Dwight Witherspoon (Vice Chair) Tom Chee Lee Jack, Sr. Tuchoney Slim, Jr. Leonard Tsosie	Jonathan Hale (Chair) Norman M. Begay (Vice Chair) Nathaniel Brown Nelson S. BeGaye Amber Kanazbah Crotty Peterson Yazzie	Edmund Yazzie (Chair) Raymond Smith, Jr. (Vice Chair) Kee Allen Begay, Jr. Herman Daniels, Jr. Otto Tso	Alton Joe Shepherd (Chair) Benjamin L. Bennett (Vice Chair) Davis Filfred Walter Phelps Jonathan Perry Leonard H. Pete

## Subcommittees and Task Forces

Naabik'iyáti' Committee's Síhasin Fund Subcommittee	Naabik'iyáti' Committee's Arizona Gaming Subcommittee	Naabik'iyáti' Committee's Sacred Sites Task Force	Naabik'iyáti' Committee's Title II Reform Subcommittee
Leonard Tsosie Nelson S. BeGaye Kee Allen Begay, Jr. Nathaniel Brown Tom Chee Seth Damon Davis Filfred Lee Jack, Sr. Jonathan Perry Walter Phelps Otto Tso Peterson Yazzie	Alton Joe Shepherd Jonathan Hale Tuchoney Slim, Jr. Otto Tso Dwight Witherspoon	LoRenzo Bates Davis Filfred Jonathan Hale Jonathan Perry Otto Tso Dwight Witherspoon	Alton Joe Shepherd Norman M. Begay Tom Chee Amber Kanazbah Crotty Seth Damon Davis Filfred Jonathan Perry Tuchoney Slim, Jr. Otto Tso
Naabik'iyáti' Committee's State Task Force	Naabik'iyáti' Committee's Sexual Assault Prevention Subcommittee	Little Colorado River Water Rights Subcommittee	
Kee Allen Begay, Jr. Nathaniel Brown Tom Chee Seth Damon Herman Daniels, Jr. Davis Filfred Jonathan Hale Walter Phelps Peterson Yazzie	Amber Kanazbah Crotty Jonathan Perry Nathaniel Brown Jonathan Hale Otto Tso Dwight Witherspoon	Walter Phelps Otto Tso Lee Jack, Sr. Dwight Witherspoon Alton Joe Shepherd.	

## Commissions

Eastern Navajo Land Commission	Navajo-Hopi Land Commission	Utah Navajo Commission
Leonard Tsosie Norman M. Begay Seth Damon Jonathan Perry Edmund Yazzie	Walter Phelps Kee Allen Begay, Jr. Lee Jack, Sr. Alton Joe Shepherd Tuchoney Slim, Jr. Raymond Smith, Jr. Otto Tso Dwight Witherspoon	Nathaniel Brown Herman Daniels, Jr. Davis Filfred

For more information on meeting dates, times, and locations, as well as legislations and news, please visit: [www.navajonationcouncil.org](http://www.navajonationcouncil.org)



# 2017 Winter Council Session

## Legislation Results

\*Chaired the discussion - Only votes in the event of a tie

<p><b>LEGISLATION 0371-15</b></p> <p>Amending 2 N.N.C. §183(F), Prohibiting the Conduct of Committee and Commission Meetings While the Navajo Nation Council is in Session or While the Naabik’iyati’ Committee is Meeting; Further, Prohibiting Payment of Stipend or Reimbursement for Attendance at Chapter Meetings, Including Planning Meetings, During Navajo Nation Council Sessions or During Naabik’iyati’ Committee Meetings</p> <p><b>PRIMARY SPONSOR</b> <b>Amber Kanazbah Crotty</b></p> <p><b>ACTION: FAILED</b> (Required 2/3 or 16 votes from Council)</p> <p><b>(TABLING VOTE)</b> <b>YEA (11):</b> Kee Allen Begay, Jr. Norman M. Begay Nelson S. BeGaye Benjamin L. Bennett Nathaniel Brown Amber Kanazbah Crotty Seth Damon Jonathan L. Hale Alton Joe Shepherd Otto Tso Leonard Tsosie</p> <p><b>NAY (10):</b> Tom T. Chee Herman Daniels, Jr. Davis Filfred Leonard H. Pete Walter Phelps Tuchoney Slim, Jr. Raymond Smith, Jr. Dwight Witherspoon Edmund Yazzie Peterson Yazzie</p> <p><b>NOT VOTING (3):</b> *Speaker LoRenzo Bates Lee Jack, Sr. Jonathan Perry</p>	<p><b>LEGISLATION 0339-16</b></p> <p>Amending Navajo Nation Council Resolution CJA-12-16 and the Síhasin Fund Bulk Water &amp; Wastewater Development Expenditure Plan and the Síhasin Fund SDS Project Expenditure Plan to Include Wide Ruins Water Line Extension (Phase II)</p> <p><b>PRIMARY SPONSOR</b> <b>Raymond Smith, Jr.</b></p> <p><b>ACTION: FAILED</b> (Required 2/3 or 16 votes from Council)</p> <p><b>YEA (12):</b> Kee Allen Begay, Jr. Norman M. Begay Nelson S. BeGaye Amber Kanazbah Crotty Herman Daniels, Jr. Davis Filfred Jonathan L. Hale Alton Joe Shepherd Raymond Smith, Jr. Otto Tso Edmund Yazzie Peterson Yazzie</p> <p><b>NAY (9):</b> Benjamin L. Bennett Nathaniel Brown Tom T. Chee Seth Damon Leonard H. Pete Walter Phelps Tuchoney Slim, Jr. Leonard Tsosie Dwight Witherspoon</p> <p><b>NOT VOTING (3 ):</b> *Speaker LoRenzo Bates Lee Jack, Sr. Jonathan Perry</p>	<p><b>LEGISLATION 0340-16</b></p> <p>Amending 2 N.N.C. § 182, Term of Office</p> <p><b>PRIMARY SPONSOR</b> <b>Raymond Smith, Jr.</b></p> <p><b>ACTION: FAILED</b> (Required 2/3 or 16 votes from Council)</p> <p><b>YEA (4):</b> Herman Daniels, Jr. Raymond Smith, Jr. Otto Tso Edmund Yazzie</p> <p><b>NAY (14):</b> Benjamin L. Bennett Nathaniel Brown Tom T. Chee Amber Kanazbah Crotty Seth Damon Davis Filfred Jonathan L. Hale Lee Jack, Sr. Leonard H. Pete Walter Phelps Tuchoney Slim, Jr. Leonard Tsosie Dwight Witherspoon Peterson Yazzie</p> <p><b>NOT VOTING (6):</b> *Speaker LoRenzo Bates Kee Allen Begay, Jr. Norman M. Begay Nelson S. BeGaye Jonathan Perry Alton Joe Shepherd</p>	<p><b>LEGISLATION 0038-17</b></p> <p>Approving Supplemental Funding from the Minimum Fund Balance of the Unreserved, Undesignated Fund Balance in the Amount of \$242,576.08 for the Navajo Nation Chapter for Disaster Relief Services</p> <p><b>PRIMARY SPONSOR</b> <b>Seth Damon</b></p> <p><b>ACTION: PASSED</b> (Required 2/3 or 16 votes from Council)</p> <p><b>YEA (18):</b> Norman M. Begay Tom T. Chee Amber Kanazbah Crotty Seth Damon Herman Daniels, Jr. Davis Filfred Jonathan L. Hale Lee Jack, Sr. Jonathan Perry Leonard H. Pete Walter Phelps Tuchoney Slim, Jr. Raymond Smith, Jr. Otto Tso Leonard Tsosie Dwight Witherspoon Edmund Yazzie Peterson Yazzie</p> <p><b>NAY (3):</b> Nelson S. BeGaye Benjamin L. Bennett Nathaniel Brown</p> <p><b>NOT VOTING (3):</b> *Speaker LoRenzo Bates Kee Allen Begay, Jr. Alton Joe Shepherd</p>	<p><b>LEGISLATION 0355-16</b></p> <p>Adopting the Síhasin Fund Twin Arrows/Glittering Mountain Family Entertainment Center Economic Development Expenditure Plan Pursuant to Resolution CD-68-14 and 12 N.N.C. §§ 2501-2508</p> <p><b>PRIMARY SPONSOR</b> <b>Jonathan Hale</b></p> <p><b>ACTION: TABLED</b> (Required 2/3 or 16 votes from Council)</p> <p><b>(TABLING VOTE)</b> <b>YEA (16):</b> Norman M. Begay Benjamin L. Bennett Nathaniel Brown Tom T. Chee Seth Damon Herman Daniels, Jr. Davis Filfred Jonathan L. Hale Lee Jack, Sr. Leonard H. Pete Walter Phelps Tuchoney Slim, Jr. Raymond Smith, Jr. Dwight Witherspoon Edmund Yazzie Peterson Yazzie</p> <p><b>NAY (3):</b> Nelson S. BeGaye Otto Tso Leonard Tsosie</p> <p><b>NOT VOTING (5):</b> *Speaker LoRenzo Bates Kee Allen Begay, Jr. Amber Kanazbah Crotty Jonathan Perry Alton Joe Shepherd</p>	<p><b>LEGISLATION 0394-16</b></p> <p>Amending 2 N.N.C. § 601 (C)</p> <p><b>PRIMARY SPONSOR</b> <b>Raymond Smith, Jr.</b></p> <p><b>ACTION: FAILED</b> (Required 2/3 or 16 votes from Council)</p> <p><b>YEA (14):</b> Nelson S. BeGaye Benjamin L. Bennett Nathaniel Brown Tom T. Chee Amber Kanazbah Crotty Herman Daniels, Jr. Jonathan L. Hale Lee Jack, Sr. Leonard H. Pete Raymond Smith, Jr. Otto Tso Dwight Witherspoon Edmund Yazzie Peterson Yazzie</p> <p><b>NAY (4):</b> Davis Filfred Walter Phelps Tuchoney Slim, Jr. Leonard Tsosie</p> <p><b>NOT VOTING (6):</b> *Speaker LoRenzo Bates Kee Allen Begay, Jr. Norman M. Begay Seth Damon Jonathan Perry Alton Joe Shepherd</p>
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# 2017 Winter Council Session

## Legislation Results

\*Chaired the discussion - Only votes in the event of a tie

### LEGISLATION 0001-17

Approving Supplemental Fund from the Unreserved, Undesignated Fund Balance in the Amount of Two Hundred Fifty Five Thousand Dollars (\$255,00) for Housing for the Former Bennett Freeze Area within Tonalea/Red Lake Chapter, Waiving 2 N.N.C. § 820(1) and 860(C) Relating to the Capital Improvement Process

**PRIMARY SPONSOR**  
Tuchoney Slim, Jr.

**ACTION: PASSED**  
(Required 2/3 or 16 votes from Council)

**YEA (16):**  
Nelson S. BeGaye  
Benjamin L. Bennett  
Nathaniel Brown  
Tom T. Chee  
Amber Kanazbah Crotty  
Herman Daniels, Jr.  
Davis Filfred  
Jonathan L. Hale  
Lee Jack, Sr.  
Jonathan Perry  
Walter Phelps  
Tuchoney Slim, Jr.  
Raymond Smith, Jr.  
Otto Tso  
Dwight Witherspoon  
Peterson Yazzie

**NAY (2):**  
Leonard H. Pete  
Leonard Tsosie

**NOT VOTING (6):**  
\*Speaker LoRenzo Bates  
Kee Allen Begay, Jr.  
Norman M. Begay  
Seth Damon  
Alton Joe Shepherd  
Edmund Yazzie

### LEGISLATION 0343-16

Approving Supplemental Funding from the Unreserved, Undesignated Fund Balance in the amount of \$157,662.57 for the Tse Si Ani Chapter Powerline Extension Project; Waiving 12 N.N.C. SS820(1) and 860(C) Relating to the Capital Improvement Process

**PRIMARY SPONSOR**  
Raymond Smith, Jr.

**ACTION: TABLED**

**(TABLING VOTE)**  
**YEA (13):**  
Nelson S. BeGaye  
Benjamin L. Bennett  
Tom T. Chee  
Amber Kanazbah Crotty  
Herman Daniels, Jr.  
Jonathan L. Hale  
Lee Jack, Sr.  
Jonathan Perry  
Walter Phelps  
Tuchoney Slim, Jr.  
Otto Tso  
Dwight Witherspoon  
Peterson Yazzie

**NAY (1):**  
Raymond Smith, Jr.

**NOT VOTING (10):**  
\*Speaker LoRenzo Bates  
Kee Allen Begay, Jr.  
Norman M. Begay  
Nathaniel Brown  
Seth Damon  
Davis Filfred  
Leonard H. Pete  
Alton Joe Shepherd  
Leonard Tsosie  
Edmund Yazzie

### LEGISLATION 0344-16

Amending Title 12 at 12 N.N.C. §§ 2001-2070 the Capital Outlay Match Funding Special Revenue Fund

**PRIMARY SPONSOR**  
Otto Tso

**ACTION: PASSED**

**YEA (14):**  
Kee Allen Begay, Jr.  
Nelson S. BeGaye  
Benjamin L. Bennett  
Tom T. Chee  
Herman Daniels, Jr.  
Davis Filfred  
Jonathan L. Hale  
Jonathan Perry  
Walter Phelps  
Tuchoney Slim, Jr.  
Otto Tso  
Dwight Witherspoon  
Edmund Yazzie  
Peterson Yazzie

**NAY (0):**  
**NOT VOTING (10):**  
\*Speaker LoRenzo Bates  
Norman M. Begay  
Nathaniel Brown  
Amber Kanazbah Crotty  
Seth Damon  
Lee Jack, Sr.  
Leonard H. Pete  
Alton Joe Shepherd  
Raymond Smith, Jr.  
Leonard Tsosie

### LEGISLATION 0345-16

Requesting Support from the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the Office of Navajo-Hopi Relocation, the Navajo Nation Environmental Protection Agency, the State of Arizona, and Apache County, Arizona for Assistance in Addressing Uranium Contamination in the Water Supply Near Sanders, Arizona

**PRIMARY SPONSOR**  
Raymond Smith, Jr.

**ACTION: TABLED**

**(TABLING VOTE)**  
**YEA (13):**  
Kee Allen Begay, Jr.  
Nelson S. BeGaye  
Benjamin L. Bennett  
Tom T. Chee  
Herman Daniels, Jr.  
Davis Filfred  
Jonathan L. Hale  
Jonathan Perry  
Walter Phelps  
Tuchoney Slim, Jr.  
Raymond Smith, Jr.  
Dwight Witherspoon  
Peterson Yazzie

**NAY (1):**  
Edmund Yazzie

**NOT VOTING (10):**  
\*Speaker LoRenzo Bates  
Norman M. Begay  
Nathaniel Brown  
Amber Kanazbah Crotty  
Seth Damon  
Lee Jack, Sr.  
Leonard H. Pete  
Alton Joe Shepherd  
Otto Tso  
Leonard Tsosie

### LEGISLATION 0348-16

Rescinding Resolution CJN-23-13, Exempting the Navajo Nation Oil And Gas Company from the Navajo Nation Fuel Excise Taxes

**PRIMARY SPONSOR**  
Dwight Witherspoon

**ACTION: PASSED**

**YEA (14):**  
Kee Allen Begay, Jr.  
Norman M. Begay  
Nelson S. BeGaye  
Tom T. Chee  
Herman Daniels, Jr.  
Jonathan L. Hale  
Jonathan Perry  
Walter Phelps  
Tuchoney Slim, Jr.  
Raymond Smith, Jr.  
Otto Tso  
Dwight Witherspoon  
Edmund Yazzie  
Peterson Yazzie

**NAY (2):**  
Benjamin L. Bennett  
Davis Filfred

**NOT VOTING (8):**  
\*Speaker LoRenzo Bates  
Nathaniel Brown  
Amber Kanazbah Crotty  
Seth Damon  
Lee Jack, Sr.  
Leonard H. Pete  
Alton Joe Shepherd  
Leonard Tsosie

### LEGISLATION 0361-16

Amending CAP-26-16 by Exempting Range Units 110, 601, 602, 603, 301, and 310 from the Determination of Navajo Partitioned Lands Range Unit Boundaries and Grazing Districts; Amending IGRJN-110-10 by Exempting Range Units 110, 601, 602, 603, 301, and 310 from Eligibility Criteria for Issuance of New Navajo Partitioned Land Grazing Permits; Authorizing Kayenta Chapter and Chilchinbeto Chapter Officials to Discuss with Land Users, Permittees, and Residents of Range Units 110, 601, 602, 603, 301, and 310 the Boundaries and Grazing Permits Eligibility Criteria for these Range Units; and, Directing that the Kayenta Chapter and Chilchinbeto Chapter Officials provide a Report to the Navajo Nation Council on these Matters

**PRIMARY SPONSOR**  
Herman Daniels, Jr.

**ACTION: TABLED**

**(TABLING VOTE)**  
**YEA (16):**  
Kee Allen Begay, Jr.  
Norman M. Begay  
Nelson S. BeGaye  
Benjamin L. Bennett  
Tom T. Chee  
Herman Daniels, Jr.  
Davis Filfred  
Jonathan L. Hale  
Jonathan Perry  
Walter Phelps  
Tuchoney Slim, Jr.  
Raymond Smith, Jr.  
Otto Tso  
Dwight Witherspoon  
Edmund Yazzie  
Peterson Yazzie

**NAY (0):**

**NOT VOTING (8):**  
\*Speaker LoRenzo Bates  
Nathaniel Brown  
Amber Kanazbah Crotty  
Seth Damon  
Lee Jack, Sr.  
Leonard H. Pete  
Alton Joe Shepherd  
Leonard Tsosie



# 2017 Winter Council Session

## Legislation Results

\*Chaired the discussion - Only votes in the event of a tie

<p><b>LEGISLATION 0388-16</b></p> <p>Amending 2 N.N.C. § 3454 (A), Navajo Telecommunications Regulatory Commission membership of the Commission</p> <p><b>PRIMARY SPONSOR</b> Walter Phelps</p> <p><b>ACTION: PASSED</b></p> <p><b>YEA (19):</b> Kee Allen Begay, Jr. Norman M. Begay Nelson S. BeGaye Benjamin L. Bennett Nathaniel Brown Tom T. Chee Amber Kanazbah Crotty Herman Daniels, Jr. Jonathan L. Hale Lee Jack, Sr. Jonathan Perry Walter Phelps Alton Joe Shepherd Tuchoney Slim, Jr. Otto Tso Leonard Tsosie Dwight Witherspoon Edmund Yazzie Peterson Yazzie</p> <p><b>NAY (1):</b> Raymond Smith, Jr.</p> <p><b>NOT VOTING (4):</b> *Speaker LoRenzo Bates Seth Damon Davis Filfred Leonard H. Pete</p>	<p><b>LEGISLATION 0400-16</b></p> <p>Confirming the Nomination of Mr. Philmer Bluehouse to Commission on Navajo Government Development</p> <p><b>PRIMARY SPONSOR</b> Jonathan L. Hale</p> <p><b>ACTION: PASSED</b></p> <p><b>YEA (16):</b> Kee Allen Begay, Jr. Norman M. Begay Nelson S. BeGaye Benjamin L. Bennett Nathaniel Brown Tom T. Chee Herman Daniels, Jr. Davis Filfred Jonathan L. Hale Jonathan Perry Walter Phelps Tuchoney Slim, Jr. Raymond Smith, Jr. Otto Tso Dwight Witherspoon Peterson Yazzie</p> <p><b>NAY (0):</b></p> <p><b>NOT VOTING (8):</b> *Speaker LoRenzo Bates Amber Kanazbah Crotty Seth Damon Lee Jack, Sr. Leonard H. Pete Alton Joe Shepherd Leonard Tsosie Edmund Yazzie</p>	<p><b>LEGISLATION 0402-16</b></p> <p>Approving the Navajo Housing Authority Reform Act by Approving Amendments to 6 N.N.C. 605, 606, and 618</p> <p><b>PRIMARY SPONSOR</b> Alton Joe Shepherd</p> <p><b>ACTION: PASSED</b></p> <p><b>YEA (11):</b> Kee Allen Begay, Jr. Nelson S. BeGaye Nathaniel Brown Davis Filfred Jonathan L. Hale Lee Jack, Sr. Jonathan Perry Alton Joe Shepherd Tuchoney Slim, Jr. Leonard Tsosie Edmund Yazzie</p> <p><b>NAY (8):</b> Tom T. Chee Amber Kanazbah Crotty Herman Daniels, Jr. Walter Phelps Raymond Smith, Jr. Otto Tso Dwight Witherspoon Peterson Yazzie</p> <p><b>NOT VOTING (5):</b> *Speaker LoRenzo Bates Norman M. Begay Benjamin L. Bennett Seth Damon Leonard H. Pete</p>	<p><b>LEGISLATION 0403-16</b></p> <p>Amending Resolution CJA-03-14 Extending the Time for a Limited Waiver of Sovereign Immunity to Allow the Navajo Nation to be Sued in Federal District Court for Compliance with the National Environmental Protection Act to Carry Out the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development Grants and Authorizing the President of the Navajo Nation to be the Certifying Tribal Official to Execute Form 7015.15 through September 30, 2021</p> <p><b>PRIMARY SPONSOR</b> Davis Filfred</p> <p><b>ACTION: TABLED</b></p> <p><b>(TABLING VOTE)</b> <b>YEA (12):</b> Norman M. Begay Benjamin L. Bennett Amber Kanazbah Crotty Herman Daniels, Jr. Davis Filfred Jonathan L. Hale Jonathan Perry Tuchoney Slim, Jr. Raymond Smith, Jr. Otto Tso Leonard Tsosie Edmund Yazzie</p> <p><b>NAY (7):</b> Kee Allen Begay, Jr. Nelson S. BeGaye Nathaniel Brown Tom T. Chee Walter Phelps Dwight Witherspoon Peterson Yazzie</p> <p><b>NOT VOTING (5):</b> *Speaker LoRenzo Bates Seth Damon Lee Jack, Sr. Leonard H. Pete Alton Joe Shepherd</p>	<p><b>LEGISLATION 0408-16</b></p> <p>Appointing Mr. Rodgerick T. Begay as the Navajo Nation Deputy Attorney General</p> <p><b>PRIMARY SPONSOR</b> Edmund Yazzie</p> <p><b>ACTION: PASSED</b></p> <p><b>YEA (17):</b> Kee Allen Begay, Jr. Norman M. Begay Nelson S. BeGaye Benjamin L. Bennett Nathaniel Brown Tom T. Chee Amber Kanazbah Crotty Herman Daniels, Jr. Davis Filfred Jonathan L. Hale Walter Phelps Alton Joe Shepherd Tuchoney Slim, Jr. Otto Tso Dwight Witherspoon Edmund Yazzie Peterson Yazzie</p> <p><b>NAY (0):</b></p> <p><b>NOT VOTING (7):</b> *Speaker LoRenzo Bates Seth Damon Lee Jack, Sr. Jonathan Perry Leonard H. Pete Raymond Smith, Jr. Leonard Tsosie</p>	<p><b>LEGISLATION 0430-16</b></p> <p>Amending NABI AU-52-15, the Plan of Operation For the Diné Uranium Remediation Advisory Commission</p> <p><b>PRIMARY SPONSOR</b> Amber Kanazbah Crotty</p> <p><b>ACTION: PASSED</b></p> <p><b>YEA (18):</b> Kee Allen Begay, Jr. Norman M. Begay Nelson S. BeGaye Benjamin L. Bennett Nathaniel Brown Tom T. Chee Amber Kanazbah Crotty Herman Daniels, Jr. Jonathan L. Hale Lee Jack, Sr. Jonathan Perry Walter Phelps Tuchoney Slim, Jr. Raymond Smith, Jr. Otto Tso Leonard Tsosie Dwight Witherspoon Peterson Yazzie</p> <p><b>NAY (0):</b></p> <p><b>NOT VOTING (6):</b> Speaker LoRenzo Bates Seth Damon Davis Filfred Leonard H. Pete Alton Joe Shepherd *Edmund Yazzie</p>
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# 2017 Winter Council Session

## Legislation Results

\*Chaired the discussion - Only votes in the event of a tie

<p><b>LEGISLATION 0006-17</b></p> <p>Confirming The Permanent Appointment Of The Honorable Cynthia Thompson As Navajo Nation District Court Judge</p> <p><b>PRIMARY SPONSOR</b> Kee Allen Begay, Jr.</p> <p><b>ACTION: PASSED</b></p> <p><b>YEA (15):</b> Kee Allen Begay, Jr. Norman M. Begay Nelson S. BeGaye Nathaniel Brown Tom T. Chee Herman Daniels, Jr. Davis Filfred Jonathan L. Hale Jonathan Perry Walter Phelps Tuchoney Slim, Jr. Otto Tso Dwight Witherspoon Edmund Yazzie Peterson Yazzie</p> <p><b>NAY (1):</b> Benjamin L. Bennett</p> <p><b>NOT VOTING (8):</b> *Speaker LoRenzo Bates Amber Kanazbah Crotty Seth Damon Lee Jack, Sr. Leonard H. Pete Alton Joe Shepherd Raymond Smith, Jr. Leonard Tsosie</p>	<p><b>LEGISLATION 0024-17</b></p> <p>Confirming the Appointment of Herbert Clah, Jr. to the Navajo Nation Gaming Enterprise Board of Directors for a Four Year Term</p> <p><b>PRIMARY SPONSOR</b> Tom Chee</p> <p><b>ACTION: PASSED</b></p> <p><b>YEA (16):</b> Kee Allen Begay, Jr. Nelson S. BeGaye Benjamin L. Bennett Nathaniel Brown Tom T. Chee Amber Kanazbah Crotty Herman Daniels, Jr. Davis Filfred Jonathan L. Hale Lee Jack, Sr. Walter Phelps Tuchoney Slim, Jr. Otto Tso Dwight Witherspoon Edmund Yazzie Peterson Yazzie</p> <p><b>NAY (3):</b> Jonathan Perry Alton Joe Shepherd Raymond Smith, Jr.</p> <p><b>NOT VOTING (5):</b> *Speaker LoRenzo Bates Norman M. Begay Seth Damon Leonard H. Pete Leonard Tsosie</p>	<p><b>LEGISLATION 0395-16</b></p> <p>Amending 2 N.N.C. § 501 And Adding Section 2 N.N.C. § 503</p> <p><b>PRIMARY SPONSOR</b> Jonathan Hale</p> <p><b>ACTION: TABLED</b></p> <p><b>(TABLING VOTE)</b> <b>YEA (14):</b> Kee Allen Begay, Jr. Norman M. Begay Nathaniel Brown Tom T. Chee Herman Daniels, Jr. Jonathan L. Hale Jonathan Perry Walter Phelps Raymond Smith, Jr. Otto Tso Leonard Tsosie Dwight Witherspoon Edmund Yazzie Peterson Yazzie</p> <p><b>NAY (3):</b> Nelson S. BeGaye Amber Kanazbah Crotty Lee Jack, Sr.</p> <p><b>NOT VOTING (7):</b> *Speaker LoRenzo Bates Benjamin L. Bennett Seth Damon Davis Filfred Leonard H. Pete Alton Joe Shepherd Tuchoney Slim, Jr.</p>	<p><b>LEGISLATION 0431-16</b></p> <p>Approving Supplemental Funding From The Unreserved, Undesignated Fund Balance In The Amount Of \$248,587 To The Navajo Nation Election Administration Office To Hold The Transportation Stimulus Plan Referendum</p> <p><b>PRIMARY SPONSOR</b> Walter Phelps</p> <p><b>ACTION: TABLED</b></p> <p><b>(TABLING VOTE)</b> <b>YEA (15):</b> Kee Allen Begay, Jr. Norman M. Begay Nelson S. BeGaye Benjamin L. Bennett Nathaniel Brown Tom T. Chee Amber Kanazbah Crotty Herman Daniels, Jr. Jonathan Perry Walter Phelps Raymond Smith, Jr. Otto Tso Leonard Tsosie Dwight Witherspoon Peterson Yazzie</p> <p><b>NAY (1):</b> Lee Jack, Sr.</p> <p><b>NOT VOTING (8):</b> * Speaker LoRenzo Bates Seth Damon Davis Filfred Jonathan L. Hale Leonard H. Pete Alton Joe Shepherd Tuchoney Slim, Jr. Edmund Yazzie</p>	<p><b>LEGISLATION 0005-17</b></p> <p>Referring A Referendum Measure On Expenditure Of Fund Principal Pursuant To 12 N.N.C. § 904, Permanent Trust Fund, To Support The Navajo Nation Transportation Stimulus Plan;" Referendum Election To Be Conducted No Sooner Than 60 Days And No Later Than 90 Days Of Appropriation Of Funds To Conduct The Election</p> <p><b>PRIMARY SPONSOR</b> Lee Jack, Sr.</p> <p><b>ACTION: PASSED</b></p> <p><b>YEA (13):</b> Kee Allen Begay, Jr. Norman M. Begay Nelson S. BeGaye Benjamin L. Bennett Nathaniel Brown Tom T. Chee Herman Daniels, Jr. Lee Jack, Sr. Walter Phelps Otto Tso Leonard Tsosie Dwight Witherspoon Peterson Yazzie</p> <p><b>NAY (3):</b> Amber Kanazbah Crotty Jonathan Perry Raymond Smith, Jr.</p> <p><b>NOT VOTING (8):</b> * Speaker LoRenzo Bates Seth Damon Davis Filfred Jonathan L. Hale Leonard H. Pete Alton Joe Shepherd Tuchoney Slim, Jr. Edmund Yazzie</p>
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